

## Board to Try 3 Policemen in Beating Case

Officers Are Accused  
Of Manhandling in  
Hotel Arrest June 9

Three District policemen will go before the Police Trial Board shortly on charges of beating and manhandling a man while making an arrest at the Dunbar Hotel on June 9, the Commissioners decided yesterday.

The city heads authorized the trial on a recommendation of the Complaint Review Board, which heard from James J. Witherspoon, 23, resident of the hotel at 2015 15th st. nw., charges that he received scalp lacerations and contusions of the right wrist at the hands of the policemen.

According to the reports and testimony submitted to the Review Board, Miss Jean Elizabeth Cain, 21, also a resident of the hotel, complained to police that Witherspoon had taken her pocketbook containing \$14.20 and cosmetics.

Pvts. David H. Gould and Herbert D. Brill of the Thirteenth Precinct, and Pvt. James A. Hansbrough of the Tenth were summoned, and, according to Witherspoon, injured him with a blackjack. The police furnished statements to Inspector Clarence H. Lutz, who investigated, that Witherspoon had resisted arrest and in so doing had assaulted two of the policemen.

The policemen found the missing pocketbook in Witherspoon's closet. A charge of larceny was lowered to petit larceny on the advice of the U. S. Attorney's office and this was later dismissed by Judge Armond W. Scott on the ground that Witherspoon should have been charged with "taking property without right."

Inspector Lutz told Police Superintendent Robert J. Barrett that his investigation "has not brought out anything which we feel justified our sending the case to the trial board." Barrett noted, however, that B. Dabney Fox, attorney for Witherspoon, said additional evidence was available and asked the Complaint Review Board to study the case.

Yesterday the Commissioners adopted the board's recommendation that the case go to Police Trial Board.

## Policeman Kills His Attacker



PVT. HAROLD TEAGUE

... threatened with blackjack



THORTON HOWARD

hit by three bullets

## Jewish Congregation Elects B. F. Pollack

Newly-elected president of Tifereth Agudath Ohavay Shalom Orthodox Jewish Congregation is Benjamin F. Pollack.

Other officers of the congregation, which is composed of the congregations of Tifereth Israel,

Ohev Shalom and Agudath Achim, are: Israel Bachrach, first vice president; Henry Lopatin, second vice president; Jack Riefkind, third vice president; Aleck Davidow, recording secretary; Charles Sidman, financial secretary; Morris Cohen, corresponding secretary and Hyman Eckhaus, treasurer.

## Police Rookie Kills Attacker On D. C. Street

Shoots Down Man  
Advancing on Him  
With Blackjack

While a large crowd of passers-by looked on, a rookie policeman yesterday shot and killed a man who was advancing on him with a blackjack.

Killed by a burst of bullets from the policeman's .38-caliber service revolver was Thornton A. Howard, 32, of 2236 11th st. nw., who had a police record dating back to 1936.

The policeman was Pvt. Harold V. Teague, 24, of the Thirteenth Precinct. He was appointed to the force last March.

The shooting took place shortly after 1 p. m. at Sherman ave. and Barry pl. nw.

Police said Howard had been a part-time mechanic at a filling station located on the southwest corner at that intersection.

### After Servicing Car

Yesterday, Arthur Spyies, 50, of 437 Elm st. nw. accompanied a friend to the filling station so the friend could have brake fluid put in his car.

Spyies told police that after Howard had put in the brake fluid they were prepared to pay for the service and drive off. He said, however, that Howard insisted the car would have to remain there for repairs to the steering wheel.

Spyies said Howard locked the car and put the keys in his pocket; that in an argument which followed Howard struck him and knocked him down.

At this point Teague, patrolling his beat, approached the corner on the east side of Sherman ave. Spyies ran across the street to inform the policeman he had been assaulted.

While Spyies was talking to the policeman, Howard crossed the street and tapped Teague on the shoulder. Teague turned and started to talk to Howard. Suddenly Howard lashed out and

D.C.

struck Teague in the face with his fist. Teague's cap went tumbling to the ground.

Teague pulled out his police blackjack and in the same motion grabbed Howard's arm and pinned it behind his back.

Teague, with Howard secured in an arm lock, started to march his prisoner to a nearby police call box. Spyies picked up Teague's cap and placed it on the policeman's head.

As he did this, Howard brought up his arm and threw Teague over his shoulder. Teague landed on his back and when he got to his feet Howard had his blackjack.

As Howard advanced on him swinging the blackjack, Teague put up his nightstick. Howard made a swing with the blackjack and struck the nightstick to the ground.

Teague retreated several steps and pulled out his revolver. The policeman ordered Howard to halt but he continued to stalk forward. Teague fired three or four shots. Three of them took effect.

One slug hit Howard in the right side of the chest, another in the left side of the chest and the third grazed the skin under the right arm. Howard was pronounced dead on arrival at Freedmen's Hospital.

Teague was placed in the custody of his commanding officer pending the outcome of a coroner's inquest at 11:30 a. m. today at the morgue.

Police said Howard's record showed an arrest on June 20, 1936, for unlawful entry. The sentence was \$25 or 30 days.

He forfeited \$5 each on three arrests in 1945 and 1946 for disorderly conduct, and \$10 on an arrest for being drunk in 1943. He was arrested in 1947 on a false pretenses charge but police records show no disposition of the case.



# White Men Deny Beating Negro

MIAMI, Florida — (SNS) — Two West Palm Beach police officers denied in Federal district court Tuesday they beat a Negro prisoner to force him to confess to theft.

The defense got under way in an unprecedented civil rights trial after Alton Fowler, 22, testified he was beaten so badly with a heavy strap he was in the hospital for one week.

Two other Negroes described alleged beatings Tuesday. They were Willie Davis, construction worker, and Willie McQueen, a West Palm Beach caddy.

Charged with beating Fowler are William M. Barnes, West Palm Beach detective; Walter I. Minton and Euell M. Culbreth, deputy sheriffs and Worden A. Bader, special agent for the FEC. John Britt, police chief of Riviera Beach, is named as a conspirator. The federal indictment was the first of its kind ever returned in this area.

Barnes, first defense witness, admitted arresting Fowler for the sheriff's office and taking him to the West Palm Beach jail. Minton, Culbreth and Bader joined them there and the four questioned the Negro.

Later the four took Fowler to a house where the stolen cigarettes were supposed to be hidden. Nothing was found, Barnes said. About 2:30 a. m. they took Fowler to Riviera Beach jail.

On cross examination Barnes said the Negro was taken there to prevent his brother from finding him and obtaining his release through an attorney. Barnes said Fowler was "in good condition" when he was arrested, and made no complaints. He testified Fowler said he'd had a fight with his wife.

Culbreth, second witness, also testified to Fowler's statements about a fight. Both he and Barnes denied any mistreatment of Fowler.

Oscar S. Miller, Fowler's attorney, took the stand before the government rested its case to describe his efforts to locate Fowler in the various jails following his arrest. He was unable to trace the Negro until word came that Fowler was in the Pine Ridge hospital, "nearly beaten to death."

Dr. Charles Harris, of the Pine Ridge hospital, told him Fowler had been "brutally handled" and was in "a dan-

gerous condition," Miller testified.

Dr. Harris, testifying earlier, said Fowler had internal injuries bruises about the body and a black eye when examined at the hospital. The physician said the injuries "could have been caused by a beating."

Federal Judge Alfred Barksdale, Lynchburg, Va., presiding at the trial, dismissed a motion by Bart Riley, defense attorney for a direct verdict of not guilty for lack of evidence.

During argument on Riley's motion, while the jury was dismissed, Assistant District Attorney Fred W. Botts reported death threats had been made against Fowler.

"Fowler reported to me he overheard one of the defendants say that if he were convicted he would see that Fowler was killed. I want that information on public record so that if Fowler is killed, action will be taken."

Botts said he would back up his statement to Judge Barksdale by later testimony.

The defense is expected to complete its testimony this morning. Attorneys estimated the case would reach the jury shortly after noon.

## Kills Two Negroes, Jacksonville Cop Faces Civil Suit

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — (INS) — A police official accused of taking the lives of two Negroes without due process of law faces trial in Jacksonville's Federal District court for allegedly violating their civil rights.

The officer, chief Albert O. Sistrunk of Greenville, previously was cleared of manslaughter charges in the deaths of the Negroes last December.

Federal Judge Dozier Devane Friday denied four motions made by Sistrunk's attorneys to have the case dismissed against him because, they said, he was charged with two separate offenses in one grand jury indictment.

The charges arose in the deaths of Miles Smith and Simon Preacher Johnson last December after he tried to arrest him.

Florida

# Negro Beaten For Looking at Auto Wreck, Put In Jail While Knocked-Out and Dazed.

Eddie Diamond, Ex-GI, Captain of Court D, Blodgett Homes was brutally beaten last Friday night in the 800 block on West State street around 9:15 o'clock for looking at an auto wreck.

Eiamond stated to the Tattler Editor last Saturday night from his bed, that he was watching a car wreck on West State street near Davis, when a white man who operates a wrecking car business asked him--Mister do you own the wrecked car? The answer was NO. Then the white man gave Diamond a card and told him to look out for future business. At this point a policeman arrived on the scene and heard the white man call Diamond "Mister," this made the policeman hot, and he. the policeman said "that's the trouble now with these So and So ?? Niggers" being called Mister.

Diamond walked across the street and related what was said to a group of young men who were looking on. After the police had finished the regular check-up, they called Diamond, asked him where did he work. Reply, "I am setting up Reserved Officers Units." He was then ordered into the patrol car, was cursed and the beating started from Madison and State with a black jack until the trio reached police headquarters. The the cop who had administered the brutal beating remarked "it's a Damn good thing that my partner did not beat you, because you would have been near Damn dead." At this point the other Cop hit the poor defenseless fellow so hard in the face that he fell on his nose all Knocked-Out. Then the two cops dragged him into the jail and braced him up while they ripped out the lining of his coat searching for a knife that was not there. The victim's pocketbook containing \$23 00 was taken and then he was jailed where he remained all night unconscious without any medical aid until about 8 a. m., the next day when he was taken to the Duval Medical Center for only an X-Ray. He was returned to jail and given a choice of posting a \$30.00 Bond for appearance in Police Court Saturday night or post a \$60.00 Bond and don't show up. He did not show up.

Diamond's pocketbook was returned, but it contained \$15.31 instead of the original amount of \$23.00.

Diamond all bloody from head to foot was released, and he immediately went to Dr. E. H. Washington's office and was

## Dixie's 'Special Police' Made Up of Race Haters

treated for a busted nose, a paralyzed left arm and in a way a fractured right knee cap and ordered to bed. He is married and has one child.

This matter of Cop Beating is being investigated and something is being done. This is the second brutal police beating in the 800 block West State street within the past two years--in each case nothing has been done, which gives a policeman license to beat innocent Negroes.

A Hint To The Wise---If you don't want a police beating, don't watch an auto wreck.

'Pistol Toter's Permits' Limited to Those

Who Oppress Minority Group, Kennedy Says

By STETSON KENNEDY — widespread evil in the South — the practice of giving much "honorary" appointments to almost any Klan-minded character who in- JACSONVILLE, Fla. — Hay-an-y Klan-minded character who in- don Burns, the youthful new may-dicates a desire to help keep col- or of this, my old home town, has ored people "in their place." refused to re-appoint some 3,500 Plantation overseers, commis- "special police" who had been-sary managers and work gang cloaked with the authority of law bosses commonly serve as this by his predecessors. Mayor Burns' commendable ac- tion points up an ancient and These men — who receive no



public funds and perform no public duties — use their "special police" certificates to arm themselves with pistols and badges, obtainable in any pawn shop. Thus equipped, they seek to terrorize and exploit colored people by posing as "the law."

In actuality, such special police constitute a quasi-official band of storm troopers dedicated to the perpetuation of "white supremacy."

It was just such a band which committed the mass murder of a "suspect" in the Groveland case recently. Having felt obliged to turn back the Ku Klux mobs from the jail, the law officers proceeded to deputize the mob, turn loose the dogs, and let the hunt run its course.

At the kill, the officers simply turned their backs and let the "posse" do it "legal-like."

#### Ku Klux Klucking

The Klux around Groveland were actually klucking:

Got my pistol on my hip,  
And my knapsack on my shoulder;

Gonna kill me a n—r before  
Saturday night,

If I have to hunt Florida over.

I know the requirements for obtaining a "Pistol Toter's Permit," because I'm a man who owns one.

Before Gov. Ellis Arnall put me on the Georgia Bureau of Investigation to probe the Klan, I went before a justice of the peace to get a pistol permit to protect myself in my private delving into the KKK's Invisible Empire.

#### Had to Affect Bias

But in order to get it, I had to let the justice assume that I needed it to "deal" with colored people.

I venture to say that for a person who is not white to apply for such a permit anywhere in the South, would be to run a risk of being jailed for "inciting to riot," or something similar.

On the other hand, I have known bill collectors right here in Jacksonville who forced minority group creditors at gunpoint to disrobe on the streets because they had defaulted on payments for credit clothing.

#### Enter Homes at Gunpoint

And I have been an eye-witness, also here in Jacksonville, to the forced entry of furniture bill collectors, flashing special badge and pistol, to repossess household furnishings in colored homes.

It's no wonder folk say:

If there ever was a devil  
Born in the land,  
It must have been  
The furniture man.

But the real devil must be driven out of this land of ours is racial prejudice in all its forms.

# Probe

## Captain, Guard Out During Probe

Strike by Men Brings

Investigation by State

RUBBER HOSE USED

Mistreatment Scored

by Road Supervisor

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Suspension of the captain and a guard of the Panama City convict camp after prisoners complained of beatings with rubber hose was announced Thursday by Chairman Alfred A. McKethan of the State Road Department.

He said an investigation of affairs at the camp is continuing.

"We won't tolerate mistreatment of prisoners in the custody of the State road department," McKethan said. Nearly all Florida's convict work camps are under the road department supervision.

He said the suspended captain is J. A. Hollis, and the guard is William Spivey.

#### Prisoners Go on Strike

McKethan said the investigation began after prisoners at the camp all colored, went on strike and refused to work one day last week.

He said Hollis had been given a hearing before him and representatives of both the road department and prison division had held a hearing at the camp in Panama City.

Henry M. Farrior of Chipley, a relief captain and former sheriff of Washington County, has been placed in charge of the camp temporarily.

Hollis has been connected with the road department convict division for 18 years.

#### Was Suspended Once

He was captain of the camp at Bronson in 1946, when Pearl McAden, killer of Tampa gambler Charlie Moon, made a sensational escape. Although Hollis was away from the camp at the time, Gov. Millard Caldwell ordered him suspended until McAden was recaptured.

When McAden was returned to Florida from Cuba 17 months later, Hollis was reinstated as captain of the camp at DeFuniak Springs. He was transferred to the Panama City camp later.



# Prison Strike Brings Probe Of Brutality

(Defender Southeastern Bureau)

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Dixie prison conditions that have caused a number of northern states to refuse returning Negro prisoners to the South were further exposed last week when two convict guards were suspended for cruelty.

The captain and a guard of the Panama City convict camp were removed from their jobs while an investigation continued into protracted prison brutality against Negro convicts. The probe was the outgrowth of a prisoners' strike.

Chairman Alfred A. McKethan of the state road department announced Thursday that Capt. J. A. Hollis and William Spivey, a guard, of the Panama City camp were suspended following complaints by the convicts that they were beaten with rubber hose.

The men were said to have been beaten while guards menacingly fingered their pistols and shotguns in a threat to shoot to kill if the prisoners resisted the torture.

Campbell, were charged with beating up Paul A. Patrick, a white man, last December.



# Police Deny Brutality

Only Officer Charles T. Dopson in a statement submitted in behalf of himself and his partner, B. E. Wilson, recently, offered a categorical denial of charges brought by Mrs. Lillian Sullivan, of 340 Merritts Avenue, that during a search for whiskey at her house on Jan. 16, the officers allegedly brutalized her, following which she allegedly suffered a miscarriage at a local hospital.

In what they termed the true statement of facts in the previous report, developing from Jan. 16, accusations, the officers enumerated their denials as follows:

1. Neither police officer referred to struck said woman.
2. Neither police officer used brutality to her.
3. Neither police officer drew a black-jack.
4. Neither police officer drew a pistol on her.
5. Neither police officer pointed a pistol at her stomach.
6. Neither police officer said "I don't give a . . . I will knock the baby out of you if you don't tell me where the whiskey is."

7. Mrs. Sullivan was not a "victim."

The officers claimed they went to Mrs. Sullivan's house in search of a man named O. D. Moore, accused of wife beating and were acting upon information received. They claimed Mrs. Sullivan admitted them without any objection. The officers claimed they smelled a strong odor of whiskey about the house whereupon they asked questions and searched. They denied any violence to Mrs. Sullivan.

Attorneys S. S. Robinson and E. E. Moore, who represent Mrs. Sullivan's interests, claim she "has just cause for complaint" and they intend "to seek a judicial determination of the merits of the case."

## Identify Officers Accused of Abusing Expectant Mother

The two officers accused of brutalizing an expectant mother who suffered a miscarriage shortly after the ordeal Sunday night were identified as City Officers C. T. Dopson and his partner, B. E. Wilson, attorneys for the victim disclosed Thursday. The victim, Mrs. Lillian Sullivan, of 340 Merritts Avenue, N. E., charged in a sworn affidavit that the officers stormed into her house without a warrant and accused her of selling whiskey. When she de-

nied the accusation, the victim said one of the officers struck her twice with his pistol and blackjack (Georgia) started citizens wondering if the state had adopted a new lynch pattern.

Twenty minutes after they left her residence without finding any whiskey, Mrs. Sullivan was said to have suffered a miscarriage at Grady hospital. She was about seven months in expectancy.

Attorneys S. S. Robinson and E. E. Moore were retained by the complainant for the purpose of criminally or civilly prosecuting the officers.

## Asks \$50,000 for Brutality of Atlanta Policemen



Mrs. Lillian Sullivan of 340 Merritts Avenue, N.E., Atlanta, signs a claim for \$50,000 damages against the City of Atlanta. She is charging two city policemen with brutality at her home last January. Twenty minutes after the experience Mrs. Sullivan suffered a miscarriage at a local hospital. Looking on are her attorneys Eugene E. Moore Jr. and Sylvester S. Robinson. The Atlanta NAACP has initiated efforts to raise funds for the case if the city does not make settlement within 30 days, as required under Georgia law. The city has until May 13 to answer Mrs. Sullivan's claim or she may institute court action in Federal courts under the civil rights statute of the U.S. Constitution. If this trial develops, it will mark the first case in Georgia of a colored person bringing legal action against police brutality.—Griff Davis Photo

## Sheriff Indicted In

Two Negroes killed last week in jails in Buford and Sparta (Georgia) started citizens wondering if the Talladega state has adopted a new lynch pattern. . . . Georgia, Fulton County (Atlanta) will pay new teachers, . . . Ralph B. . . . King George County (Virginia). School erected at cost of \$150,000.

## 7 Floggings

Yesterday on assault charges in the flogging of seven Negroes by hooded men reported to be members of the Ku Klux Klan. The Dade County Grand Jury returned the indictments after the seven Negroes came here from Chattanooga yesterday to testify. They were escorted by Georgia

Bureau of Investigation agents and State troopers.

The officers were charged with assault and battery and failure to suppress mob violence. These are misdemeanor charges. The deputies indicted are W. M. Hartline, N. Stokes McCaulley and John Bleckley. Robert Keener was indicted on an assault charge.

Judge John H. Paschall ordered the men to make appearance bonds of \$1,000 each.

Attorney Frank M. Gleason, who will represent Sheriff Lynch and his deputies, made a statement for the officers:

"We welcome the investigation and the indictments. The charges appear to be of a serious nature and they should be thoroughly investigated. We are confident that the defendants are not guilty of any of the charges and welcome a trial."

Judge Paschal, in his charge to the grand jury, said, "It is reported that the alleged assault was administered by the Ku Klux Klan. And in view of that I think it proper to inquire if any of you gentlemen are members of the Ku Klux Klan."

No juror responded.

## White and Negro Prisoners Tell Of Brutality

Ptl. V. A. Howell, a veteran Atlanta officer, has been suspended for allegedly striking a Negro prisoner and threatening a young officer who sought to restrain him. Police Chief Herbert Jenkins reported here last night.

The fray allegedly happened early Sunday morning when Howell reported for duty on the fourth floor of the city jail. Howell, who has been with the department 23 years, has been suspended from duty until the Police Committee of the City Council can investigate the incident, it was learned here Monday night.

According to sources at the city jail here white prisoners and a Negro prisoner had said in a signed statement that as Howell entered the fourth floor door, he kicked Fred Cleveland, a Negro assigned to work out a station house fine on the day watch.

Brown reportedly told Howell, "I hate to say anything to you about it, but you can tell that man to move without kicking him or hitting him."

Howell, whom Jenkins quoted as saying his "nerves must be going bad," then slapped the prisoner, hit him with a blackjack and threatened Brown with a gun when the

him. . . . not finished the indoctrination course at the time of the alleged beating. Judge McClelland said he considered loss of his job some punishment for Hudson and was also taking into consideration his youth.

Ex-Negro Policeman Fined J. D. Hudson, 22, former Negro policeman who had been on the force only 14 days when he was charged with assault and battery on a Negro prisoner, was fined \$50 in Fulton Municipal Court yesterday. Judge John S. McClelland also gave Hudson a 12-month sentence but suspended it on condition that he pay the fine and

younger officer tried to stop him, according to the signed statement. Howell was turned on several weeks ago by a group of unruly prisoners. He sustained minor injuries. It is not known at the present whether any of the prisoners were Negroes.





**RALPH MCGILL**

## Men Who Shame Our State and Flag

Two persons from Bainbridge came to see me. They were solemn and sad, worried and a little bit afraid.

They had a right to be.

This was their story. A short time ago a 15-year-old Negro boy had been arrested on his return from a stay of two weeks in Ashburn. Frightened, cowed and very much alone, he was taken roughly, he says, to jail.

In a sworn statement from a hospital bed, he said that after arrest he was told he had insulted a white woman. He had not, and he denied it as strongly as he could. The officer then called up a number and had the boy talk into the telephone. "Does that sound like him?" he asked.

The boy said the county officer then hit him with his fist and locked him up. There was no warrant and no charge made.

He says he asked the county officer what he was charged with doing and the officer said to him that if it were up to him the boy would never see his daddy again. That's pretty hard on a boy of 15.

**Waiting** Apparently there was no charge or evidence against him because the next night the boy was released—late, about 10:30 p. m.

In his statement he said that when he came down the steps from the jail two men were waiting. They both hit him and one put a sack over his head. They took him to a car. During the drive they struck him and cursed him. After a while they reached some woods and got out, dragging him with them.

**Boy** Now, whatever his race, this was but a 15-year-old boy. He was, one may assume, very much afraid and in a state of terror. Any boy would have been. He was all alone and knew he might be killed.

The boy was beaten, very heavily, with a strap and a club. He was asked if he believed in civil rights. He said he didn't know what they were and had never heard of them. The odds are the men who were mistreating him so brutally didn't know what they were either. They asked him if he knew of any niggers insulting white women. He says they told him they were going to beat him until they killed him if he didn't tell. He said, truthfully, he didn't know any. They asked him who he ran around with and he told them. He is afraid they will be beaten, although the boy swears that neither he nor they have ever insulted or sought to insult anyone. He says they then asked him how old he was and he said 15 and they each whipped him hard for every year of his age. They then told him to run.

**Alone** It was after midnight and dark. The 15-year-old boy tried to run, but kept falling down because he was almost unconscious and badly beaten. He says he hid in some bushes all night and the next morning, feverish and sick, asked for some water at a white farmer's house. The man gave him the water and asked him what the matter was. He said nothing was the matter. He went on to a Negro's house and these people bathed him and dressed his badly wounded back and put him to bed. They also called the deputy.

The boy and the deputy found the place where he had been whipped. They also found his shoes which had come off during the beating.

The deputy called the sheriff at Bainbridge and the boy's father, and the boy was put in the hospital at Bainbridge, with raw wounds from the beating.

The case is being "investigated."

**Results** As I have said here before, the Klan or a manifestation of the Klan is a cancer which will sicken and harm any town which does not rise to put it down.

Bainbridge is a fine city. Its colored and white populations always have got on well together. Its people do not approve of

vicious ruffians taking the law into their own hands. The good people must not be afraid of the Klan element, which has pack courage, but only pack courage.

The pattern of this was typical. The law had nothing against the boy. But the outlaws, those of the Klan mentality, wanted to beat and slug someone in order to terrorize the Negro population, rather than allow the law to run down any law violation by any Negro or persons in the town, suspected of saying obscene things over the telephone, which was the offense being investigated.

**Pattern** It could easily have been determined if the boy had been away. If he had been guilty it could have been proved. The boy in question was released because he was not involved.

But, the point to note is that two men knew when the boy would be released and were waiting. That is in the pattern.

What has happened there—as has happened in a few more places—is that a group of men have put themselves above the law.

Somebody at the jail let the men know when the boy would be released.

The people of Bainbridge and the county can join together and say they vote for sheriffs and for courts and they want them to handle their cases. They can demand of the sheriff that he run this down and arrest the guilty men and present the evidence to the grand jury. They can ask the sheriff why prisoners released from his jail can be picked up at the door, a sack put over their head, and then taken away by force and violence at the very door of the building which houses the law enforcement offices of the county. Many persons in the county are outraged and aroused. That's what we need.

Georgia can't go on advertising to the Nation that mobs can mock our law and our courts. We aren't the sort of people these evil persons try to make us seem.

Let the law find the guilty and try them legally, by law, and jail them by law.

We can't go on allowing violent and lawless men to dominate us. The flag of the United States and the flag of Georgia are supposed to fly over our courthouses and public buildings. Let's remember that. They are supposed to stand for law and justice.

## Cell-Slaying Viewed As New, Undercover Mob

*Memphis, Tenn.*  
**Harper And Boyd**  
**Report Widespread**  
**Cases Of Violence**  
*Aug. 8-12-49*  
By C. W. Greenlee

ATLANTA, Ga.—(SNS)— Giving credence to a wide-spread belief that a new pattern of terror and intimidation is sweeping over the State of Georgia, two young Negro men were killed in their jail cells last weekend.

Both men, in widely separated sections of the State, were reported arrested on minor charges, accused of attacking guards inside the jails, then shot down under a hail of police bullets.

At Buford, Georgia, 25-year-old John (Bigboy) Glasper was reported to have been lodged in jail on a

charge of "Red" Bailey, local white grocer. Glasper is said to have owed him a three weeks old bill of \$13. Glasper was reported shot in jail on August 4, dying the following day at Buford hospital. Buford policemen told newsmen that Glasper had "gone on a rampage," breaking out jail windows and attacking them, forcing officers to shoot him.

Investigation showed that Glasper, who leaves a widow, a mother, and a 7 months old baby, all dependent upon him for support had been shot once in the stomach, twice in the arm, and once in the back.

His family told NAACP agents that when they visited him at the jail on Wednesday, he had begged them to "hurry and get him out" because he knew "they were going to kill him." They said he told them on his hospital bed that he had done nothing to provoke the shooting and did not break out any windows or attack policemen.

At Sparta, Georgia, 25-year-old L. C. Culver was reported killed in the Hancock County jail Saturday morning when he went through the head and face by Chief of Police Moody Purdie. Officers said the man had knocked down Sheriff Bernard Butts and was beating him when he was slain. They charged him with being mentally deranged, but friends and relatives told NAACP representatives that the man was perfectly sane.

Culver is survived by a wife who is an expectant mother. The family is poverty stricken and has no funds to bury the body. Hancock County officials Monday were quibbling over providing a county burial because the jail victim was a prisoner "killed in the line of duty." Culver had been charged with holding up a white man with a shot gun on the highway a few months ago.

Glasper had been arrested on Saturday, July 30, but had been released on \$100 bond by Arthur Hamilton, white saw-mill owner. He worked for Hamilton on Monday, August 2, but on Tuesday he failed to report to the mill when he missed a truck ride. Wednesday morning at 6:30 a. m., he was picked up by Buford police as he awaited his ride to work, and told that Hamilton had "gone on his bond." Wednesday and Thursday he feared for his life, according to his family. He was shot Thursday, August 4.

NAACP officials Monday were contemplating steps to counter-act what they believed to be a new fast-spreading pattern of terror; a new "lynch technique."

Dr. William Boyd, State NAACP president and C. L. Harper, Atlanta branch president, stated that both cases are under investigation, and some legal action will perhaps be taken.

Atlanta Daily World records show almost identical instances of jail-cell killings in the cases of Sam Terry last February at Manchester, Georgia, and Henry Gilbert at LaGrange. Terry, confined to his home with mumps, was arrested for a family disturbance and later killed in the LaGrange jail by officers who accused him of attacking them. He had 13 dependents. His widow was in the next room of the jail when Terry was shot. She denied officers' statements that her husband attacked them.

Gilbert was a prosperous LaGrange farmer who owned land that had long been sought by white buyers. He had been arrested on a minor charge.



# Atlanta Policeman Kicks Prisoner, Gets Suspended

By NNPA News Service

ATLANTA, Ga.—A veteran Atlanta police officer has been suspended for allegedly striking a colored prisoner and threatening a younger officer who sought to stop him according to Police Chief Herbert Jenkins.

Patrolman V. A. Howell, a veteran of twenty-three years' service with the department, has been suspended from duty until the Police Committee of City Council can investigate the incident, Jenkins announced.

The incident allegedly occurred at 2:45 p. m., Sunday, July 31, when Howell reported on the fourth floor of city jail to relieve Patrolman R. H. Brown as turnkey.

Three white prisoners and a colored prisoner said in signed statements that as Howell entered the fourth floor door he kicked Fred Cleveland, a colored prisoner assigned to work out a station house fine on the day watch.

"I hate to say anything to you about it," Brown was quoted as saying to Howell, "but you can tell that man to move without kicking him or hitting him."

Howell then slapped the prisoner, struck him with a blackjack and threatened Brown with a drawn gun when the younger officer sought to restrain him, the statements continue.

Jenkins quoted Howell as saying his "nerves must be going bad." The chief said Howell indicated he might seek to obtain a disability pension for that reason.

Howell was severely mauled several weeks ago, by a group of unruly prisoners. His glasses were broken and his dentures were broken in the melee when three prisoners suddenly turned on him.

**Cell-Slayings Viewed As New, Undercover Mob**  
Harper And Boyd

## Report Widespread Cases Of Violence

By C. W. Greenlea

Giving credence to a wide-spread belief that a new pattern of terror and intimidation is sweeping over the State of Georgia, two young Negro men were killed in their jail cells last weekend.

Both men, in widely separated sections of the State, were reported arrested on minor charges, accused of attacking guards inside the jails, then shot down under a hail of police bullets.

At Buford, Georgia, 25-year-old John (Bigboy) Glasper was reported to have been lodged in jail on a charge of "Red" Bailey, local white grocer. Glasper is said to have owed him a three weeks old bill of \$13. Glasper was reported shot in jail on August 4, dying the following day at Buford hospital. Buford policemen told newsmen that Glasper had "gone on a rampage," breaking out jail windows and attacking them, forcing officers to shoot him.

Investigation showed that Glasper, who leaves a widow, a mother, and a 7 months old baby, all dependent upon him for support had been shot once in the stomach, twice in the arm, and once in the head.

His family told NAACP agents that when they visited him at the jail on Wednesday, he had begged them to "hurry and get him out" because he knew "they were going to kill him." They said he told them on his hospital bed that he had done nothing to provoke the shooting and did not break out any windows or attack policemen.

At Sparta, Georgia, 25-year-old L. C. Culver was reported killed in the Hancock County jail Saturday morning when shot through the head and face by Chief of Police Moody Purdue. Officers said the man had knocked down Sheriff Bernard Butts and was beating him when he was slain. They charged him with being mentally deranged, but friends and relatives told NAACP representatives that the man was perfectly normal.

Culver is survived by a wife who is an expectant mother. The family

## Georgia

is poverty stricken and has no funds to bury the body. Hancock County officials Monday were quibbling over providing a county burial because the jail victim was a prisoner "killed in the line of duty." Culver had been charged with holding up a white man with a shot gun on the highway a few months ago.

Glasper had been arrested on Saturday, July 30, but had been released on \$100 bond by Arthur Hamilton, white saw-mill owner. He worked for Hamilton on Monday, August 2, but on Tuesday he failed to report to the mill when he missed a truck ride. Wednesday morning at 6:30 a. m., he was picked up by Buford police as he awaited his ride to work, and told that Hamilton had "gone off his bond." Wednesday and Thursday he feared for his life, according to his family. He was shot Thursday, August 4.

NAACP officials Monday were contemplating steps to counter-act what they believed to be a new fast-spreading pattern of terror; a new "lynch technique."

Dr. William Boyd, State NAACP president and C. L. Harper, Atlanta branch president, stated that both cases are under investigation, and some legal action will perhaps be taken.

Atlanta Daily World records show almost identical instances of jail-cell killings in the cases of Sam Terry last February at Manchester, Georgia, and Henry Gilbert at LaGrange. Terry, confined to his home with mumps, was arrested for a family disturbance and later killed in the LaGrange jail by officers who accused him of attacking them. He had 13 dependents. His widow was in the next room of the jail when Terry was shot. She denied officers' statements that her husband attacked them.

Gilbert was a prosperous LaGrange farmer who owned land that had long been sought by white buyers. He had been arrested on a minor charge.

## Officers Deny Assault Charge

J. A. Hudson, one of Atlanta's new Negro policemen, was bound over yesterday under \$300 bond to the Criminal Court after a Negro he had arrested accused him of assault and battery.

The accused, Robert Fambreau, told Judge Ralph McClelland that Hudson, his partner Ernest Lyons and Sgt. E. A. Brooks, white officer in charge of the Negro squad took him Monday night to an isolated spot off Ashby St. where he said Brooks told Lyons to take Hudson's pistol and blackjack

When Lyons had done so, Fambreau said Hudson brutally beat and kicked him as the others looked on.

Hudson, Lyons and Sgt. White denied the beating.

## Negro Officer Bound Over on Assault Charge

An Atlanta Negro policeman accused of assaulting a Negro he arrested Friday was placed under \$300 bond by Civil Court Judge Ralph McClelland and bound over to Fulton Criminal Court for a trial.

The complainant, Robert Fambreau, made the charge in a warrant against Negro Patrolman J. A. Hudson.

Fambreau and his attorney, W. L. Gower, a former Atlanta detective, charged that Hudson, together with an unidentified Negro policeman and a white man, took Fambreau to the outskirts of the city in a patrol car and that Hudson beat him.

Fambreau alleged he had first met Hudson 10-hours earlier when he temporarily left his seat in a Hunter st. drugstore and returned to find Patrolman Hudson sitting in his chair.

Hudson denied the beating, but admitted the drugstore incident.

Another Negro policeman, E. H. Lyons, and Sgt. Bevo Brooks identified themselves as the Negro policeman and the white man who allegedly accompanied Hudson. Both denied that Hudson beat the Negro.

Still another Atlanta patrolman, introduced as a prosecution witness, R. J. Walker, testified that the Negro was beaten at the time he picked him up on a wagon call at Mitchell and Davis sts.

## Patrolman Accused Of Assault

A Negro man yesterday swore out a warrant charging an Atlanta Negro patrolman with assault and battery after claiming the uniformed officer took him for a ride

and beat him. Atty. W. L. Gower, representing Robert Fambreau, of 224 West Lake Ave., N. W., said his client was eating lunch in a Hunter Street drugstore. Gower said Fambreau returned to his chair after getting a glass of orange juice and found Ptl. J. A. Hudson, in civilian clothes, sitting in his chair.

The lawyer said his client asked the man to let him continue his dinner and that Hudson replied: "You haven't bought that chair." He said the man then left.

Gower quoted Fambreau as saying that 10 hours later, on last Monday, he was standing on Hunter when a police patrol car containing Hudson, another Negro patrolman and a white man drove up and that one of them told him to get in. Gower quoted Fambreau as saying they took him out into a clump of trees on the outskirts of the city and that Hudson severely beat him, later taking him to jail and booking him on a charge of using profanity.

Warrant Clerk T. E. Compton said that the case was bound over to the Criminal Court for trial. Fambreau said he was taken to the streets for disorderly conduct-cursing on the street. He declared he had no recollection of any such incident in the drug store as Fambreau's attorney charged. He denied knowing anything at all about a beating charged to him and another Negro patrolman.

## Officers Kill 2, Wound 1 Suspect

Police officers in Georgia and Maryland, one of whom was colored, went on a rampage Saturday and Sunday nights, leaving behind two dead suspects and one wounding a prisoner who attempted a jailbreak.

Bishop Sam Johnson was shot to death Saturday night in a running gun battle with officers after he shot and wounded Fred Vail, colored, at a turpentine still near Screven, Ga., 12 miles from Jessup.

Hunted by Posse A posse headed by Sheriff D. O. Quinn had been searching for Johnson who was discovered by Homer McBee, 37, telephone operator of Screven and Leslie Kelly who had been fishing from a bridge.

The sheriff said Johnson began shooting as soon as he saw the two white men were following

him. McBee was shot and killed as he approached the suspect. The sheriff was checking the jail grounds when he saw Brown coming through a window. He fired when the prisoner ignored his command to halt.

Killed Resisting Arrest In Upper Malboro, Md., Thomas E. Curtis, one of the town's two

Anders shot Columbus Brown, a colored prisoner, when he tried to jailbreak Saturday night. The prisoner was given emergency treatment for a bullet wound of the lower back and re-



## Brutality, Nonetheless

A former Negro policeman entered a plea of guilty Monday to a reprisal assault upon Robert Frambreau, another Negro, of 224 West Lake Avenue. The officer was J. A. Hudson, who had only recently joined the police force.

Judge John S. McClelland, of the Fulton Criminal Court, was so impressed with the seriousness of the charge against the former officer that he fined him Fifty dollars and gave him a 12 month suspended sentence. It is clear then, that the Judge did not like that sort of behavior reported for an officer of the law and neither do we.

The same charge made against a white officer would be termed police brutality. And merely because it happened this time to a Negro officer does not, in the least, change the nature nor the seriousness of the beating. We think, therefore, that we should serve notice upon the Negro officers of the law, no less than upon the whites, that we have no intentions of upholding an officer who violates the rights of our citizens.

We repeat, we don't like the reported conduct of Mr. Hudson, who seemed more anxious to get a charge to demonstrate his power as an officer than his fitness. And if the charges are as they are reported to be, it is to be seriously doubted that he can be brought to exercise the proper restraint and fitness as an officer of the law.

Finally, it ought to be said too, that the reported conduct of Sergeant Brooks is open to some doubt. As we understand it, he is in charge of the Negro patrolmen. The facts show that he was present at the time of the beating and that counsel for the beaten victim contemplates action against him before Chief Jenkins. It seems to us that supervising officer with the proper interest in the training of young recruits to the force would want to give his men a better start on a job, charged with so grave a responsibility. We wonder if such unwise counselling can be responsible for some of the other acts of indiscretion on the part of the newcomers to the force?

Yes, we at least believe that Chief Jenkins should be permitted to hear the evidence brought out in the case Monday. And in doing so, both Sergeant Brooks and officer Lyons, who is also charged with "aiding and abetting" in the assault upon Mr. Frambreau will have a chance to testify. We can in no wise, give our approval to officers who are bent upon violating the civil rights of our citizens. For in truth, the work of a police officer is as much a matter of education in the law as it is enforcing obedience to the law.

**Policeman**

**Fined \$50**

John Davis, Hudson, resigned Atlanta policeman, yesterday faced a \$50 fine and a suspended 12-month sentence after being arraigned in the Criminal Court of Fulton County on an assault and battery charge.

Judge John H. McClelland sentenced the former policeman after the latter pleaded guilty to a charge alleging that he had made an assault upon Robert Frambreau, of

ed and denied beating Frambreau, said he planned to send a transcript of Hudson's commitment trial and his conviction to Chief Herbert Jenkins with a recommendation for action against Sergeant Brooks and Officer Lyons.

Frambreau told the court that he was taken behind the Pickett-Brown Manufacturing Company and beaten after the three policemen allegedly picked him up at Chestnut and West Fair, with Hudson informing him that he was being arrested on a charge of disorderly conduct-cursing in the drug store.

Hudson said he struck Frambreau when the arrested man attempted to escape from the patrol car.

223 West Lake Avenue, N. W., on October 10.

The charge had been lodged against Hudson by the alleged victim who swore out a warrant on October 11, charging that he was taken for a ride and beaten by Hudson in the presence of another officer and a white police sergeant.

Attorney W. L. Gower, representing the accuser, charged that the accused patrolman was "aided and abetted" by Sgt. E. B. Brooks, officer in command of the Negro division of the Atlanta patrolman, and Ernest H. Lyons, partner of the policeman.

Attorney Gower, who presented a transcript of a hearing in the Civil Court before Judge Ralph McClelland, at which Hudson appear-



# Open Verdict Returned

## St. Louis, Mo. Aug. 4 In Death Of Prisoner

Monday morning, the coroner's jury returned an open verdict in the death of James Perry, 41 years old of 1006 Atchison avenue, who died at Homer Phillips hospital, after being transferred from the 4th District Police Station, Aug. 4. The post-mortem report of Dr. John J. Connor of the Coroner's office showed that Perry died of subdural hematoma from an unknown blow to the side of the head. *8-12-49*

Several witnesses were called in and told about seeing the arresting officer slap Perry several times. The arrest grew out of a disturbance at the 15th and Cole street park in which the park watchman, Elmus Miller, was assisting Perry from the park and the police squad car passed carrying Sgt. Jesse Miller, who was accused of slapping Perry, along with officers Charles Robeson and Charles Jones. All of the officers claimed that the sergeant did not strike Perry at all during the arrest.

Gertrude Burns who was with Perry at the time of the trouble charged that sergeant slapped Perry after the park watchman handed him over and walked away. She said at no time was Perry hostile toward the officers.

Alexander Finch of 2900 Thomas street who was the cellmate of Perry told the Coroner's jury when Perry entered the cell he said that his head was hurting and appealed to the turn-key to take him to the hospital thru the remainder of the night but nothing was done. Finch said that Perry later asked for an aspirin but did not receive one and that he fell down in the cell three or four times.

Charles Walton of 1005 North 14th street said that he saw Sgt. Miller slap Perry in the face three times and then put him in to the car. Other witnesses who stated that they saw the sergeant's conduct were Thomas Richardson of 1528 Cole street, and Gertrude Burns.

The Civil Rights Congress of St. Louis has obtained Attorney Douglas McLeod to handle the case for the family of the victim.

## Fugitive Slain In *Chicago, Ill. Daily Worker* Duel With Police

CHICAGO—(INS)—A two-gun fugitive who shot it out with police in a pitched battle for nearly three hours was killed late Thursday when he tried to escape from the burning house in which he had barricaded himself. *8-20-49*

Three policemen were reported wounded by the Negro gunman during the sensational fight, witnessed by an estimated crowd of 12,000 persons. Another officer was cut by flying glass. *8-20-49*

Two other persons, a Negro boy and a Negro youth, were wounded by the apparently crazed gunman before he began his duel with police (at 2635 Washington Blvd. Court) on Chicago's west side.

Police Commissioner John Prendergast, who narrowly escaped being hit when he entered the structure, called it one of the worst gun fights he had seen in his 40-year career on the force.

The gunman was shot down when he tried to squeeze through a narrow passageway beside the two-story dwelling.

The gun battle began about 9 p. m. when police went to Craig's apartment to arrest him for the shooting of the Negro child, identified as Drake Aitkins, 2, (f 2637 Washington Blvd.)

Police said Aitkins was wounded in the head when Craig fired at 17-year-old Lawrence Mack (of 2139 Washington Blvd.) during an argument which started when the dead man accused the youth of stealing his revolver.

Commissioner Prendergast, Chief Ray Crane of uniformed police, and a Capt. O'Malley entered the building at one point and duelled with the gunman.



## Probe Requested In Fatal Shooting Of Negro Boy

Lexington, Ky., Sept. 9 (AP)—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People today sought an open investigation of the fatal shooting of a 16-year-old Negro boy here Sept. 9-10-49.

The youth, captured in a neighborhood where police sought a prowler, was shot after he fled a police cruiser.

James A. Crumlin, attorney for the organization, told the City commissioners his group felt an open investigation should be made. A local committee protested the incident to the commission.

City Manager J. Pelham Johnston told the attorney an inquiry had been made and added it was not necessary that the investigation be made public.

Mayor Tom Mooney told the committee no formal charge was made against the four officers involved in the case because it was not determined who fired the fatal shot.

## Former Teacher Fires 3 Shots In Classroom

Lexington, Ky., Dec. 8 (AP)—A 54-year-old former schoolteacher was ordered committed to Eastern State Hospital today after the shooting in a public-school classroom of a Negro teacher.

Judge Chester D. Adams of Fayette Circuit Court ordered the woman committed to the institution for observation and treatment pending a lunacy hearing. The hearing is scheduled to start tomorrow.

City police seized the assailant, Miss Sara Simpson, also a Negro, in the school building, where she was hiding, 3 hours after the shooting. Police said she had a gun and shells in her purse.

### Struck In Shoulder

Her brother, Herbert Simpson, instituted the court proceedings.

Witnesses said Miss Simpson entered the third-grade room of Miss Marietta Hunter and fired three shots after declaring, "I'm going to get all of you for talking about me."

One of the shots struck Miss Hunter in the shoulder, but she fled the room, running down a

hallway with her assailant in pursuit. Three more shots were fired by the former teacher, one of them hitting Miss Hunter in the leg. Miss Simpson then reloaded the gun, witnesses said, but fled without firing again.

### Classes Dismissed

School authorities said Miss Simpson gave illness as the reason for resigning her teaching position last summer. Associates at the school said the former teacher believed she was being persecuted by Miss Hunter and the school principal, Miss Lucy Smith.

Miss Hunter, 46, has taught at the school since 1915 and teachers said she was "well-liked and popular." Her condition could not be learned at the hospital where she was taken.

After the shooting classes were dismissed for the day but will resume tomorrow.



## 2 Denied Rights; Policemen Fired

*Adeline*  
NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 17 —(AP)  
— Two New Orleans policemen  
were minus their badges today  
after a departmental trial found  
them guilty of depriving two  
young Negroes of their civil  
rights.

*12-18-49*  
Patrolmen Robert J. Walker, 24,  
and Charles T. Rutecki, 26, were  
dismissed from the force.

The Negroes, one 15 and one  
19, complained to Superintendent  
of Police Joseph L. Scheuering  
that they were picked up and  
beaten by the two officers.

Scheuering found the patrol-  
men guilty of "depriving the pair  
of their civil liberties, by taking  
them into custody but not book-  
ing them at the precinct station."



# INQUIRY ORDERED ON DEATH IN JAIL

*Miss. Police*  
Police to Check with All  
Figuring in Case

*11-11-49*  
An investigation of the death of a Negro man in the Gretna jail— in whose arrest New Orleans police participated—was ordered Thursday by superintendent of police Joseph L. Scheuering.

The man, Eugene Jones, 48, 8922 Green, was found dead in his cell Saturday less than four hours after he had been arrested by Seventh Precinct police and turned over to Jefferson parish deputy sheriffs on a narcotics charge.

*New Orleans*  
The widow of the dead man, Martha Jones, Negro, 25, charged that her husband was beaten when police, accompanied by two Jefferson parish deputies, arrested him from his residence. She said the deputies returned to the residence twice following the arrest and beat her husband in her presence.

Dr. Kermit F. Brau, Jefferson parish coroner, said following an autopsy on Jones' body that the man died of "circulatory collapse," apparently caused by an overdose of "marijuana."

Dr. Brau was unable to explain the presence of three puncture wounds on Jones' body, however. Records show that Jones was arrested by Lt. Joseph Maer

and patrolman Jules Martin, of the Seventh Precinct, booked with being a fugitive from justice, and turned over to deputies Vic Massey and Earl Rolland.

Scheuering said he was assigned Maj. Albert Blancher, supervisor of precincts, to investigate the case. He said Blancher plans to talk with all persons involved in the case and make a written report on it.

# Ex-Marine Brutally Beaten to Death by Two Deputies

Taken 'For a Ride,' Later  
Found Dead in La. Jail

Coroner Calls Death 'Natural Causes'  
But Continues to Probe Two 'Punctures'

NEW ORLEANS, La. (ANP)—Two Jefferson parish deputy sheriffs last week beat to death Eugene Jones, 42, an ex-Marine who served in the last war, while Jones was a prisoner in the Gretna jail located a little more than a mile from here.

The parish coroner said that Jones died "from 100 per cent natural causes," but he wants additional time to account for two "punctures" in the forehead and one in the leg which he said puzzled him.

No action as yet has been taken by the parish authorities, and one can account for the arrest of Jones from his home shortly after midnight last Friday when he was spirited away "for a ride" by the two deputies.

According to Mrs. Jones, she and her husband had gone to bed about 10:30 p. m., and were awakened several hours afterward when they heard a knock at the door. Jones answered the door, asking who was there, she said. Four men then pushed the door open and told him to put his clothes on, they were going "for a ride."

When he protested, they hit him over the head with a stick, she said. While he dressed, they continued to hit him, they just took him out and were gone about half an hour, she stated. Three or four times they came back, and then left again. Jones was handcuffed according to Mrs. Jones and the blood gushed from his mouth.

Sunday when she called the jail to see whether she could bring him fresh clothes she was told he was dead. The wife said

that two of the men were New Orleans policemen and the other two Jefferson parish deputies. She said that she had never seen them before.

Questioned on the physical condition of her dead husband, Mrs. Jones said that he hadn't been to a physician for several years. He served a year with the Marines and after his discharge had been operated on for ulcers of the stomach.

## Deputies Silent

The New Orleans policemen said that they had arrested Jones and for the Jefferson parish authorities in connection with the sale of marijuana cigarettes. The deputies involved in the arrest and the beating have made no statement as yet.

"I'm sure Jones died from natural causes," said the coroner. He stated that the death had been so entered officially following an autopsy performed the next day at the Foundation Hospital. On the back of Jones' head, the coroner said, was a laceration about "one to one-quarter inches" in length. The right hand was swollen as was the neck. There were no explanations for these.

By JAMES B. LAFOURCHE  
NEW ORLEANS, La. (ANP)—

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# Fatal Beating Charged Deputies

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# Probe 2nd Cell Death In New Orleans Jail

NEW ORLEANS, La.—Police here are involved in the suspected murder of another Negro—the second case of its kind in the past several months.

An investigation has been ordered into the death of Eugene Jones, 48, in the Gretna jail. He was found dead in his cell last Saturday less than four hours after he was arrested by New Orleans police.

Seventh Precinct police of marijuana and turned over to Jefferson parish deputy sheriffs on a narcotics charge. The probe was ordered by Superintendent of Police Joseph L. Scheuering after the dead man's widow, Mrs. Martha Jones, charged that her husband was beaten by New Orleans police.

New Orleans police in July were taken into custody of murdering a 42-year-old Negro longshoreman, Frank Bates. An attack by Dr. Kermit F. Brau, Jefferson parish coroner, to the slaying of Rev. John F. Neel explain the death by a report that

Bates, who had lost his mind



## Free 4th Officer In Brutality Case

PORT MEADE, Md.—“You can give him back his feet,” Lt. Col. William Fitzhugh, prosecutor, argued before the seven-member court martial board, consisting of two generals and five colonels, when he acquitted the fourth Army officer held responsible for the amputation of the foot of a prisoner because of his mistreatment at a prison camp in Germany.

Colonel Fitzhugh last Friday, drew a reprimand from Brig. Gen. Edwin Zundel, court president, when he continued:

“Three men have already been acquitted but isn't someone responsible? The eyes of the country are on this trial.”

**Disregard Evidence of Cruelty**  
It was at this point that General Zundel shouted, “Those remarks are uncalled for.”

It then took less than 20 minutes for the “high brass” on the board to acquit Col. Harold H. McClune, former camp commander, of charges of neglect of duty and inhuman treatment of American camp prisoners in the Wurzburg, Germany, Rehabilitation Center.

Private Wood and several other prisoners in the camp during the freezing winter of 1945 testified that they had suffered frozen feet, Wood's injury being so serious that his feet had to be amputated.

**Commander's Performance Louder**  
The officers in charge of the stockade were charged with failing to supply heat in the windowless portion of the barracks where the prisoners were held, and with refusing even to give the men enough blankets to keep them from freezing, among other things.

As head of the stockade at that time, Colonel McClune, who was returned from retirement in Florida and put on active duty to stand trial, was charged with neglect of duty.

The defense contended that Colonel McClune's duties were so numerous that it was impossible for him to devote more than one-third of his time in the prison stockade.

The defense argued that under these conditions, he performed his duties in an efficient manner, possessing the requisites of a good officer.

The colonel, in his own defense, in lambasting the frozen prisoners as “gold-brickers,” stated that he believed that the men who complained of frostbite had inflicted

the injury upon themselves purposely in order “to take it easy” in the infirmary.

“With a cell 7 x 12 feet,” the ex-prison head said, “there is no reason why the prisoners could not exercise and keep warm.”

He did not deny the cell block was cold, at one point admitting from the stand that when he visited the cell block on one very cold day, it was “colder in the building than it was outside,” and he was chilly although he was dressed in an overcoat.

It was then, he continued, that he ordered pot-bellied stoves installed.

Private Wood and several of the other witnesses, however, said that the only stove in the cell block was used in the guards' day room. The three officers previously acquitted by the court martial were judged not to have neglected their duty in their various capacities in letting the soldiers freeze.



# Policeman Who Beat Vet. Goes To Court

*Commentator*  
Sgt. Harry Van Nortwick was scheduled for arraignment for information before Recorder's Judge John J. Maher on Thursday to answer an aggravated assault charge made by a disabled veteran. *Antiseptic, Mich.*  
The Trumbull Station desk sergeant wavered examination on Feb. 3, after pleading not guilty earlier and being released on \$500 personal bond.

Complainant is Rufus Horne, 27, 269 Tennessee, a sixty per cent disabled veteran.

**BLOW BREAKS NOSE** *13e*  
The weight-throwing champion of the police department was charged with breaking the vet's nose with a blackjack in the station on New Year's Day. He was suspended three weeks ago, pending an investigation by the prosecuting attorney's office.

Horne in his statement charged that the desk sergeant came around his desk and hit him with a blackjack. The blow allegedly broke his nose, and knocked him to the floor in a dazed condition. *Ant. 3-5-49*

**GETS TRAFFIC TICKET**  
The disabled veteran came in the station with his brother who was given a traffic ticket for exceeding the speed law. The clash, Horne reported, came as result of his questioning of a proposed charge of his disturbing the peace while in Trumbull station.

Police Trial Board action against the 42 year old policeman awaits trial of the criminal case.



# Victim Of Brutality By Law Officers

McCOMB, Miss., Sept. 4—A startling expose of police brutality in Mississippi was made Friday by the fighting editor of the Enterprise-Journal of this city. He bitterly condemned the flogging of prisoners in Mississippi. His fire was specifically directed at law agents in the unmerciful beating of an aged Negro woman.

Declaring that several citizens had given him report of the flogging of the woman, he wrote a fiery front page editorial "with view of bringing such practices to a halt in the Pike County jail. The editor, Oliver Emmerich said Sheriff Robert E. Lee dodged the issue. Emmerich declared:

"A 68-year-old Negro woman is alleged to have been severely whipped in the Pike County jail with a cat-o-nine-tails type of whip, not because she had been charged with a violation of the law, but because it was believed she possessed information which could possibly be used in the prosecution of another Negro.

"This Negro woman is alleged to have been compelled to lift her skirts, expose her nakedness and to have been whipped in shifts of five minutes, alternating between five minutes of whipping and five minutes of rest.

"The law specifies how punishment shall be administered, and the law should be applied." Emmerich's editorial continued. "The old whipping post of the Dark Ages and the spirit of witchcraft of old has no place in our modern civilization."

"What is more," Emmerich said, "this practice of whipping prisoners is not limited to the Pike County Jail. There are other counties in Mississippi that are alleged to practice whipping and usually the whipping is administered at the whim of an individual or two."

## Sheriff Promises Action After Woman Is Beaten In Jail

BY JAMES B. LaFOURCHE  
McCOMB, Miss. (ANP)—An unidentified 68-year-old Negro woman is said to have been beaten in jail here two weeks ago because she was thought to be in possession of information held vitally essential to the prosecution of another person.

The woman was alleged to have been severely lashed with a cat-o-nine-tail type of whip after being made to lift her skirt and expose her nakedness. The beatings were administered at intervals of five minutes, the latter time being allowed for a rest period.

The victim was described as being a "good woman, honest and inoffensive." The incident is said to add to the already long list of whippings of Negro prisoners. Whites too, are said to have shared similar experiences.

Information was disclosed that the whipping of prisoners in numerous Mississippi counties is a very common thing. It was stated that in the courthouse at Magnolia, Miss., a whip is kept on hand for this purpose.

The white populace here is enraged at the beating of the aged woman and have asked that the matter be given wide publicity. No one here condones the practice of torturing prisoners to the extent that beatings are mercilessly administered.

Sheriff Robert E. Lee when interviewed said:

"I have never ordered anyone to be whipped nor have I witnessed any whippings. However, I shall look diligently into the proposition and it shall be my constant aim in the future to see to it that the rights of all prisoners, white and black, are protected and that the laws governing prisoners will be upheld."

## Woman, 68, Beaten in Jail

Citizens Outraged,  
Probe Promised

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# Protests Beating, Negro Student Is Jailed by Police

Special to the Daily Worker

ST. LOUIS, Mo., June 15. — A 21-year-old Negro student is the latest victim of police terrorism against the Negro people here. Cecil G. Huggins, of 2726 Stoddard St., was charged with "resisting arrest and the police station, where Huggins was booked and thrown into jail entered the 9th District for 12 hours until he furnished Police Station to report the unpro-\$500 bail. 6-16-49

Huggins, a Navy veteran and high school graduate, is a student at Washington Technical School where he is preparing for a pre-medical course. To pay his way through school he plays the piano and heads a band known as Doc Caesar's Combo. On Tuesday evening he was returning from booking a new job for the band, and stopped with some friends at the B. & B. restaurant on Cardinal and Laclede, where the young men ordered hamburgers and orange soda. 13e

Huggins was standing near the door of the restaurant when two police officers entered. One of them turned to Huggins and knocked him down, warning him to stay out of the neighborhood or he would be beaten again. Since Huggins must pass through this part of town to get to and from work, he stopped at the 9th District police station to report the incident and ask that it not be repeated. 6-16-49

## COPS JAIL HIM

Officer Massey, who had administered the beating and threat, was called in and instructed to take Huggins to Homer G. Phillips Hospital. On the way to the hospital he was threatened again, to such a degree that when the doctor in charge asked him if he was hurt he answered no, even though his eye was swollen and his leg badly bruised. Thereupon officer Massey took him back to

Mrs. Dorothy Forest, representative of the Civil Rights Congress who appeared in court on Thursday morning with Huggins, characterized the incident as one of many in a long series aimed at intimidating the Negro people. She called upon the citizens of St. Louis to send protests to Mayor Darst and the police Commissioner. The delegation which accompanied Huggins also included V. Belton, chairman of the 19th Ward of the Progressive Party; William Massingale, chairman of the 5th Ward; Mrs. Katherine Shryver, executive secretary of the Progressive Party of St. Louis; Miss Virginia Reece and the Rev. Blythe, Negro woman minister.

Attorney for Huggins, engaged by the Civil Rights Congress, is Douglas MacLeod, who moved for a continuance of the case until July 6, when it will be heard in Municipal Court No. 1.



## Musician Wins Brutality Case

By DICK SMYTHE

NEW YORK—Assaulted by an off-duty policeman on the night of March 26, as he was about to mount the bandstand of the Shangri-La Club in Astoria, L. I., N. Y., bandleader Snub Mosely refused to accept the usual "police hearing."

The aggravated nature of the injuries inflicted by several blows to the face and mouth by George Killoran required long medical and dental treatment. The interest of civic organizations as well as the Musicians Union was aroused by the case, but still no results could be obtained through police hearings on Mr. Mosely's attack complaint.

Rather than accept the usual "white-wash" of the incident by police authorities, Mosely retained the services of John D. Pharr Jr., of the law firm of Jackson and Pharr, who instituted a civic action suit in city court, New York County.

At the trial which took place in Trial Term, part 10, before Justice James J. Brady, the justice handed down a decision awarding the plaintiff a judgment for over \$700 Dec. 16.

## Rap Cop's Slapping Of Negro Youth

A Bronx delegation Saturday protested to the 48th Precinct, Bronx, the action of a policeman who last Monday stopped, searched and slapped a 19-year-old Negro youth who was walking home from a visit with relatives.

The youth, Paul Wright, was accompanied by a 14-year-old friend, when he was halted at 1:25 a.m. last Monday at Claremont Parkway and 171 Street, a few blocks from his home at 1491 Brook Ave. The policeman who stopped him had shield number 5295.

A protest meeting has been called for Wednesday at 8:30 p.m., at the American Labor Party club at 631 E. 169 St.

# Jimcrow Justice Convicts Brooklyn Negro Veteran

By John Hudson Jones

Anthony Hardison, a 25-year old Negro veteran, and student of radio and television was on his way home the night of Oct. 31, 1948, after repairing his mother's radio and stove. But before he reached home 27 days later, he had been brutally beaten, arrested

and framed. On March 3, Hardison was convicted in Brooklyn County Court of "possession of burglar tools." The so-called "burglar tools" were a tiny hammer and pair of pliers used by Hardison in his studies at Manhattan Technical Institute. He was carrying them home when he was stopped and searched by Patrolman Carlson of the 79th Precinct. He had just left his mother, Mrs. Ethel Hardison, of 562 Lexington Avenue.

When Hardison was arrested, his 19-year old wife, Adele, was home at 551 Warren St., expecting a baby. She didn't know what happened to her husband, however, until several days later when a man who had been released from the Raymond Street jail came with a message.

### REFUSE INFORMATION

Officials at the jail at first refused Mrs. Hardison any information about her husband. It was not until Nov. 10, or 11 days after Hardison's arrest that she was permitted to see him.

"His face was horribly swollen," Mrs. Hardison told reporters the next day. "He complains of terrible pains in his leg and they haven't given him any medical attention."

On Nov. 27, after 27 days in jail without bail, Hardison was released on \$1,500 bail when the Civil Rights Congress intervened in the case. In early January, Hardison's counsel, Thomas R. Jones, a young Brooklyn Negro attorney, and Alfred L. Tanz, were offered a deal, wherein Hardison could take a "plea" for a lesser charge.

### SAYS HE'S INNOCENT

"I'm not guilty and I'm not afraid to stand trial," the young veteran declared.

But this is the way "justice" worked during Hardison's three-day trial:

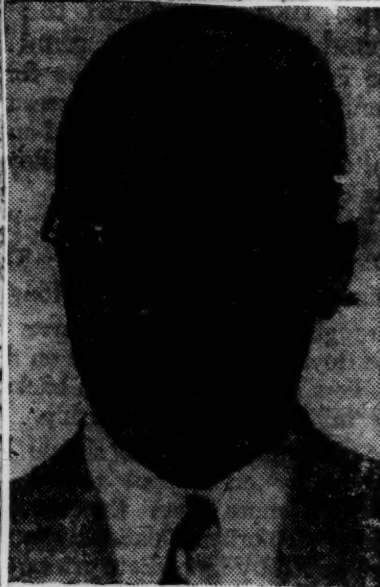
On the second day of the trial, Judge Carmine J. Marasco sent attorney Jones to jail on a contempt charge for almost half hour. The judge had become enraged when Jones began exposing the vicious frameup.

Judge Marasco had constantly broken into the testimony of defense witnesses, but answered questions and made it generally easy for the policemen testifying.

At no time did the police even claim that any evidence of burglary was found in the neighborhood of Quincy Street and Sumner Avenue, the scene of Hardison's arrest.

Hardison testified that when Carlson stopped him and accused him of being a burglar, he asked the cop "to come on and go back to my mother's house, and you'll see I just left there."

However, Carlson told him, Hardison declared, "Go on and



TOM JONES

run, you black b---, and I'll shoot you." The cop refused to go back to Mrs. Hardison to verify the veteran's story. Instead he arrested him.

And after the intimidation of



ANTHONY HARDISON

Hardison has not yet been sentenced, but can get up to five years.

This is what happened to one Negro veteran. What will now happen to his three-months old child? How will young Mrs. Hardison get along? Is this the Negro veteran's reward for service to his country? Has Southern "justice" come to Brooklyn? What about his career in radio and television for which he so eagerly prepared? These are the facts and some questions on the Hardison case.

## Attacks on Negroes By Police Charged

N.A.A.C.P. Asks Dewey  
For Impartial Inquiry

Negroes in this city have no redress in cases of "unwarranted attacks" by members of the Police Department, it was charged yesterday at a press conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 20 West Fortieth Street. It was also announced that Governor Thomas E. Dewey, who returns today from a tour of Europe, will be asked to appoint a special commission to conduct "an impartial and thorough inquiry" in specific cases recorded by the N. A. A. C. P.

The conference was called by the national office on behalf of its New York and Brooklyn branches. Speakers at the conference charged that not only is it impossible to obtain the conviction of officers accused of police brutality, but that more often than not complainants are convicted on charges "trumped up by accused officers as a part of their defense."

Charles Levy, executive secretary of the New York branch, discussed a list of cases which had been "whitewashed" either in the courts or at disciplinary hearings of the Police Department.

Samuel Korb, a member of the legal redress committee of the Brooklyn branch, discussed the fatal shooting of Herman Newton, twenty-two, of 617 Halsey Street, Brooklyn, by Patrolman Donald Mullen, during an argument Memorial Day evening at the intersection of Quincy Street and Sumner Avenue, Brooklyn.

Mr. Newton and the patrolman were driving in separate cars and an argument ensued when Mr. Newton allegedly tried to pass Mr. Mullen's car. The policeman was off duty and in civilian clothes. The case is under investigation by the Brooklyn Grand Jury, but no charges have been preferred against the officer.

James A. Powers, president of the Brooklyn branch, has written to Governor Dewey requesting designation "of an extraordinary grand jury and of a special prosecutor" to supersede Miles F. McDonald, District Attorney of Kings County, in this and other cases.



# Negroes Stage The Worker Boycott Over N.Y. On 3-4-49. Cop Brutality

GREENVILLE, N. C. — The Negro people of this eastern North Carolina black-belt town are fighting back against Jim Crow.

On *Sun 4-3-49* February 2, George Raymond Whitfield, a young Negro veteran, was waiting for a young lady in the lobby of a movie theatre in the Negro section of town. He was rudely ordered to leave by the white theatre manager. Whitfield replied he would leave when he met the girl he was waiting for. The theatre manager called two cops and the three of them drove Whitfield to the city jail. He was told to get out of the car and was knocked cold as he stepped from the door.

He gained consciousness several hours later in jail with his head badly beaten. In spite of pleas by his family physician he was refused medical treatment. As a result one of his eyes is probably permanently damaged.

Mr. Whitfield was tried on three charges: (1) trespassing, for which he was fined \$15.00, (2) resisting arrest, 60 days in jail and (3) assaulting an officer, 90 days in jail. The case was appealed and is pending.

Meanwhile people in the Negro community from various organizations and clubs, sparked by members of local 10, FTA-CIO, staged a one-week boycott of the theatre which was one hundred per cent effective. Meetings of Negro citizens were held and a letter was sent to the head of the theatre chain in Raleigh demanding that he fire his manager in Greenville. After the boycott a theatre official arrived, fired the brutal manager and replaced him with a local Negro respected in the community.



# Beaten Blind by Police, Man Sues for \$100,000

## Asks Relief in Federal Court on Grounds Constitutional Rights Had Been Violated

MEMPHIS — (ANP) — Beaten blind by West Memphis, Ark., police officers on last Jan. 1, Jack Bunn Jr., of Memphis last week filed a suit in Federal court for \$100,000 in damages against the city where the atrocity occurred and four of its police officials.

The suit sets forth that Bunn's constitutional rights and the civil liberties statutes were violated by his arrest, beating in jail, fine and imprisonment of charges of being drunk and disorderly.

His petition contends that although he was "not guilty" of charges, he was not allowed counsel or given an opportunity to testify before he was held in jail for a month and also forced to pay \$3.75 in order to get his release.

Bunn suffered a possible skull fracture after being beaten on the head "with a pistol, blackjack, light stick or other instrument," the bill stated.

As a result of the beating, it set forth, "his brain was permanently injured and for several days he was rendered unconscious to the extent that he wandered about in a dazed condition." In addition, his eyes were beaten until he had only partial vision in one eye and practically none in the other.

His nervous shock and permanent impairment was also listed in the complaint, together with the fact that the man "suffered excruciating mental and physical pain and anguish and will continue to suffer same, probably permanently."

## Officers Indicted for Beating Negro Who Escaped Jail

MEMPHIS, April 8 (AP) — A grand jury today indicted six police officers on charges that they beat a Negro prisoner, who was rearrested after escaping from jail.

Indicted were Sheriff Charles Forbess of Tipton County, Deputy Sheriff Jesse Sanders, Jim T. Scott, marshal of Covington, Tenn., at the time of the alleged incident, and Assistant Marshals Robert Gift, Vernon

W. Pickens, and Charles Deveral. The Negro was John Wesley Scott, who now is serving a prison term for housebreaking and larceny.

He had complained that he was mistreated December 5, 1947. He had escaped jail while awaiting trial. Later, he was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment.

## Three Of Six White Officers Dismissed In Case Involving Putting Out Prisoner's Eye

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (SNS) — Despite the unusual action of a Negro prisoner's arising in open court and directly accusing a law enforcement officer of having put out his eye, and accusing the other officers of having assisted in the brutal beating he said he received it appeared Tuesday of this week, that little would come of the Federal Court trial of six Covington (Tipton County), Tennessee officers who were indicted on charges of having deprived the prisoner of his civil rights by beating and accusing him.

In a startling and unexpected action, U. S. Attorney Thomas Farnsworth Tuesday asked Federal Judge Marion Boyd to dismiss the complaint against three of the six Tipton County and Covington officers.

Mr. Farnsworth reportedly made the motion to dismiss the suits against Jim T. Scott, former Covington city marshal and now assistant warden at the state penitentiary in Nashville; Jesse Sanders, chief deputy sheriff of Tipton County; and Aubrey Deveral, Covington city marshal, as the government rested its case.

Judge Boyd agreed to the dismissal motion. Shortly after this, L. B. Gwinn, attorney for all six defendants, made a motion for dismissal of the charges against the other three: Tipton County Sheriff Charles Forbess, Vernon W. Pickens, former assistant city marshal and one-time deputy sheriff, and Robert Gift, city marshal.

### PRISONER TESTIFIES

The prisoner, John Wesley Scott, 34, testified the sheriff and city marshal beat him with a blackjack December 5, 1947, as a result of the beating, he said, he lost his left eye.

Scott was originally arrested on charges of housebreaking and larceny, shortly after he had returned to Covington on a visit from Chicago, Ill. He had been charged with the crime before leaving Covington to go to Chicago.

Scott, who stammers badly, was on the stand four hours Tuesday giving his testimony. In his broken speech he testified he was beaten by the two officers when he was captured after escaping from the Covington jail. He said he struck a Negro trusty and fled when he noticed a key left in the outer door of the jail. He was caught by Officers Pickens and Gift.

The prisoner—he is now serving a three-to-seven-year sentence on the housebreaking and larceny charge in Fort Pillow Prison Farm in Tennessee—said Sheriff Forbess beat him some 20 minutes on the head and body as he lay down on his cell cot. Earlier he said he had been beaten by Gift, receiving from him the blow on the eye.

Scott said when he was sent to the hospital, Sheriff Forbess warned him not to tell how his eye was injured.

Dr. John K. Walsh, former assistant resident physician at John Gaston Hospital, followed Scott to the stand and told the jury a blow of "medium or great force" injured Scott's eye so seriously it had to be removed. The physician said he ex-

amined Scott's eye after he entered the Memphis hospital, and assisted with the operation. The eye was bruised, both lids were swollen shut, the cornea had a large "star-like" tear across it and the iris, or colored portion, was protruding partially through the wound, the doctor said.

Under cross examination, Doctor Walsh said the hospital's original records showed Scott's eye was injured by a sharp instrument.

### SCOTT NAMES BLACKJACK

Scott accused Gift of beating him with a blackjack and putting his eye out. He accused Pickens of supplying Gift with the blackjack which Gift used in beating him, and then of holding a gun on him while Gift struck him repeatedly across the head and in the eye. He did not accuse the other defendants of taking part in the beating.

It was evidently on this ground that the three men whom Scott did not accuse were dismissed Tuesday.

The lawyer for the other three defendants argued that the case against them should be dismissed for two reasons. (1) there is no substantial evidence that these defendants under color of office willfully deprived Scott of any rights under the Constitution of the United States; (2) the testimony of the witness, Scott, is so inherently improbable and incredible that it would not support a verdict under the Federal rules.

In reply, Judge Boyd said: "The jury will have to pass on it, Senator."

First witness to be called by Attorney Gwinn was Gift, whom Scott stuttering and stammering during nearly four hours on the witness stand, repeatedly pointed at, saying:

"It was Mr. Bob Gift who put my eye out... Mr. Gift did it... He was the one."

The defendant, Gift, said he was circling the town trying to locate Scott after he had broken out of jail, when Scott running through a field, ran into the road and "right up on us." (Him and Pickens.)

He said the only weapon he and Pickens used to re-capture Scott was a sawed-off Winchester pump gun, and there were no blackjacks because he had come to the scene in his own car instead of the squad car.

He described how he marched Scott back to the jail... said he had Scott by the belt, and as he started toward the cells and Scott turned around as if to run — and how he "swung him around by his belt and

shoved him in the cell." Gift admitted he had used a blackjack in making other arrests.

Pickens denied having held a gun on Scott while Gift beat him. Sheriff Forbess also denied having beaten Scott and said that he had gone down to the jail for "a short time to talk with Scott about his jail break, asking him why he did it. He did not remember Scott's answer, he said.

Another government witness was James Jackson, 43, serving 10 to 20 years at Ft. Pillow for second degree murder. Jackson, who was in the Covington jail at the time Scott said he was beaten, testified that he heard Forbess cursing Scott and Scott begging the sheriff not to beat him any more.

Incidentally, Pickens, during his testimony said "there was no occasion to strike Scott because he "did not give us any trouble when they arrested him."

Great public interest in the trial manifested in Memphis.

## Officers On Trial

MEMPHIS, June 14 (AP) — Federal law officers charged with depriving a Negro prisoner of his constitutional rights and beating him so severely he lost an eye.

Government witnesses were expected to end their testimony today.

On the stand yesterday, the Negro, John Wesley Scott, pointed out Tipton County Sheriff C. P. Forbess and Robert Gift, city marshal of Covington. He said they were the men who slugged him with blackjacks, smashing his left eye.

The Negro said he was beaten when he was recaptured after breaking out of the Tipton County Jail, where he was awaiting trial.

The four others involved in the suit are Assistant City Marshal Vernon W. Pickens, Chief Deputy Sheriff Jesse Sanders, Deputy Sheriff Aubrey Deveral and Jim T. Scott, former city marshal, now a deputy warden at the state prison in Nashville.

## Six Officers Tried On Charge Of Depriving Negro Of His Rights

MEMPHIS, June 13 (AP) — Six law officers went on trial in Federal Court today on charges that they deprived a Negro prisoner of his constitutional rights.

The Negro, John Wesley Scott, testified that two of the men—Sheriff Charles P. Forbess of Tipton County and City Marshal Robert Gift of Covington, Tenn.—beat him

**FEDERAL GRAND JURY HERE  
INDICTS SIX TIPTON COUNTY  
OFFICERS FOR BEATING NEGRO**

The other four officers on trial are Assistant City Marshal Vernon W. Pickens, Chief Deputy Sheriff Jesse Sanders, Deputy Sheriff Aubrey Deveral and Jim T. Scott, former city marshal, now a deputy warden at the state prison in Nashville.

Scott now is serving a three-to-seven-year sentence on a conviction of housebreaking and larceny. He testified that he escaped the Tipton County Jail, hitting a trusty with a broom handle, while awaiting trial. The alleged beating, he said, followed his recapture in De-

Reportedly blind in one eye and jury of a charge of housebreaking still serving a seven-year sentence in and larceny, John Wesley Scott, Fort Pillow Prison, after being con-



Chicago, Ill., has still been able to bring charges and cause the indictment of the sheriff of Tipton County and five other officers of this rural cotton county of West Tennessee. *4-12-49*

Sheriff Charles P. Forbess, and the five other men were indicted Friday, April 8, by a federal grand jury on a charge of violation of Civil Rights and Domestic Violence statute. *Jenn*

The charge grew out of Scott's complaint that he had been beaten and deprived of his civil rights by the officers.

The other men indicted include Jesse Sanders, deputy sheriff, Jim T. Scott, who was city marshal at the time Scott claimed he was mistreated but has since been appointed assistant warden at a state prison. Robert Gift, assistant city marshal of Covington, Vernon W. Pickens, assistant marshal and Charles Deverall or Deveral, assistant city marshal.

The men were summoned to a federal court hearing in Memphis as witnesses, but on advice of their attorney L. E. Gwinn, refused to sign waivers of immunity. They were not called before the grand jury to testify.

The grand jury was called in special session to hear the case of the six officers and no other case was taken up. During the three hours and a half session, the six men were outside the jury room.

The jury's indictment of the men followed. The indictment accuses them of "wilfully subjecting and wilfully causing to be subjected John Wesley Scott... to the deprivation of certain rights, privileges and immunities, secured and protected to (him) by the Constitution and laws of the United States to wit:

"The right to be sure in his person and to be immune from illegal assault and battery, the right and privilege to be immune while in custody of persons acting under color of laws and statutes of Tennessee, from illegal assault and battery by any person exercising the authority of said state and city of Covington." *4-12-49*

The indictment further states that on or about December 5, 1947, Scott was beaten, hit and had afflicted upon him physical injury and damage and a former resident of Memphis during his early boyhood days; Russ Cowan, of the Chicago Defender and former managing editor of the Michigan Chronicle.

There were also on hand a large bevy of local guests, including Dr. A. L. Johnson, president of the Bluff City Medical Society which is now in the midst of a campaign to obtain a city hospital under supervision of a Negro medical staff. Joseph Nelson, manager of Foote Homes; Attorney Benjamin Hooks, who recently passed the bar to practice law in Memphis; Mrs. Alura G. Stamps who a few weeks ago was elected president of the National Beauty Shop Owners Association during its annual convention in Los Angeles, California; Dr. and Mrs. Cooper Taylor, Rev. Roy Love pastor of Mt. Nebo Baptist Church and Mr. Robeson, assistant manager of Foote Homes.

Club officials, Wendell A. Haynes president and Mr. Johnson, expressed appreciation to Chief Armour of the Memphis Police Department for making it possible for the policemen to attend the luncheon.

Other participants on program were Calvin W. Rolard, who led the audience in singing the "National Anthem" and G. R. Lawrence, secretary of Lauderdale Branch YMCA. B. C. Duncan had charge of the menu.

### Three Of Six Memphis Officers Freed Of Negroes' Charges

*Memphis Herald*  
MEMPHIS, June 14 (AP)—Charges against three of six Tennessee law officers accused of depriving a Negro prisoner of his constitutional rights were dismissed today. Federal Judge Marion S. Boyd dismissed the charges on the surprise motion of U. S. Attorney Thomas Farnsworth. The six are from Tipton and Tipton County. Freed were Chief Deputy Sheriff Jesse Sanders, Deputy Sheriff Aubrey Deveral and Jim T. Scott, former city marshal and now deputy warden at the state penitentiary in Nashville. Boyd denied a defense motion for the release of the other three defendants—Sheriff C. P. Forbes, City Marshal Robert Gift and Assistant Marshal Vernon W. Pickens. The three denied in testimony today that they abused the prisoner, 34-year-old John Wesley Scott.

### Three Of Six White Officers Dismissed In Case Involving Putting Out Prisoner's Eye

*Memphis World*  
Despite the unusual action of a Negro prisoner's suing in open court and directly accusing a law enforcement officer of having put out his eye, and accusing the other officers of having assisted in the brutal beating he said he received, it appeared Tuesday of this week, that little would come of the Federal Court trial of six Covington

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ment rested its case. *17. 0. 49*



# Police Brutality Proved in Protest To City Council

HOUSTON, Tex.—An inter-racial delegation of 15, organized by the Civil Rights Congress and the Progressive Party called upon the Houston City Council last week in protest against the growing threat on the lives of Negro Houstonians by the city police.

The delegation called the attention of the City's Fathers to the following acts of brutality against the Negro people:

(1) Mr. Louis Hurrington, 30, bleeding from a wound on his forehead, walked into the Police Station April 9th to report that he had just been struck across the head by a bus driver who slung his money changer at him. Instead of aiding Hurrington, the police took him back to the bus, beat him to a pulp, dragged him bleeding and half unconscious down the street and booked him on assault charges. He is so intimidated now that he won't press charges.

(2) Mr. John Batiest, a 77-year-old Negro man who has lived in Houston for 37 years, was riding the bus May 6th when a young white hoodlum got on and told him to get to the back of the bus. While the old man was slowly walking back, the white man struck him down, lacerating his face. A white couple who had befriended Batiest called the police to intervene. The police took the two men down to the station. There, they freed the white man after encouraging Batiest not to press charges. With the white hoodlum out, the police made no effort to protect Batiest and would never have booked his assailant if the NAACP had not intervened.

(3) Mr. Newton Veazy, 23, died from a blow on the head Feb. 8th—four days after he was released from the city jail. The youth's father found the funeral home ambulance driver intimidated and reluctant to tell where he picked Veazy up and in what condition

were subjected to, according to the account they related and now on NAACP files.

Lillie said he was beaten by several officers and jabbed with night sticks. When he attempted to ward off blows with his hands, they were pricked with knives. The blind veteran also pitifully said a pistol point was jammed into one of his ears and snapped.

The alleged Gestapo-like tactics hit the lowest low when Miss Holmes said after the deputies beat her they threatened to violate her womanhood with a night stick.

After Lillie displayed his wounds and recounted his experience with "peace officers," he cited his story to the District Attorney and Chief

Investigator "Ug" Williams of the sheriff department.

## PROMINENT FAMILY

Member of a prominent Houston family, the blind veteran has been operating a partnership beer parlor for several months. Industrious, he said he launched the venture to supplement the small compensation he was receiving. This, he added, to some degree enabled him to face inflationary living prices.

The blind veteran also reported that approximately \$75 were missing from his purse when the deputies finally permitted him to search for it. He is the brother of Otis Lillie, a War Department employee in Washington, and despite his handicap is one of the most popular businessmen in Sunny Side Addition.

Woman  
Partner  
Slugged  
Insulted

HOUSTON, Tex.—Harris County citizens were, this week, anxiously awaiting the grand jury's report on its investigation into the beating of George Ammon Lillie, 27-year-old blind veteran, who was beaten by deputies from the sheriff's office last week.

According to Lillie and Johnnie Mae Holmes, his business associate in operating a beer tavern, the blind man was beaten when he was unable to supply deputies with information on suspects sought in connection with the rape of a 16-year-old white girl.

## NAZI TACTICS

Little, if anything under the Nazi heel surpassed the fiendish treatment that Lillie and his partner



13f 1949

Alabama

## FOLSOM FORBIDS LASH IN ALABAMA'S PRISONS

Series Of Other Reforms Are  
Proclaimed By Governor

*Commercial Appeal*  
MONTGOMERY, Ala., April 14.—  
(AP)—Gov. James E. Folsom or-  
dered the lash abolished in Ala-  
bama prisons Thursday. At the  
same time he proclaimed a long  
list of other reforms.

He instructed Prison Director  
Frank Boswell to expand the edu-  
cational system in the prisons and  
ordered creation of a new Classifi-  
cation Bureau.

Floggings, for which Boswell has  
been severely criticized, will be  
permitted, the Governor said, only  
when absolutely necessary. Other  
forms of force must not be used, he  
added, except to prevent escapes  
or protect the life of a guard or  
other prison official.

Folsom also ordered Boswell to  
start immediately on plans to re-  
build Atmore Prison, destroyed by  
fire several weeks ago. The prison  
director said he has already or-  
dered materials for a new building  
and convicts will do the work as  
much as possible.

Here are the other reforms:

1. Trustees now assigned to the  
State Capitol will be removed from  
there except for a small squad  
working on the Capitol grounds  
under guard.

2. Prisoners will be allowed to  
visit their homes on week ends only  
with approval of the Parole Board.

3. Convicts will be forbidden to  
keep money with them.

4. Educational and training  
classes will be expanded so no pris-  
oner serving a year or more will  
be allowed to leave without the op-  
portunity of learning to read and  
write and to equip himself to make  
a living outside.

5. Gambling will be prohibited  
during work hours and during off  
hours when education, religious or  
work classes are being held.



# 5 Officers Who Beat Man Almost to Death Freed

*Baltimore Md. 1-22-49*

Jury Takes Five Minutes to Render Verdict

in Fla. Rights Trial That Lasted Five Days

MIAMI—A jury of white Floridians took only five minutes, last Friday, to return a verdict acquitting five white policemen of charges of beating a colored prisoner almost to death with a leather strap to make him confess to the theft of cigarettes.

What had been widely heralded by the press as Miami's "first civil rights case" ended in a typical instance of Southern "justice" after a five-day trial before Federal Judge Alfred Barksdale of Lynchburg, Va., during which the jurist had dismissed defense's motion for a directed verdict of not guilty, due to "lack of evidence."

Testifying against the plaintiff, Alton Fowler, 22, were three colored residents of West Palm Beach, who told the jury that the victim of the brutal police beating was "a bad character."

## Beaten on Rifle Range

Freed after denying charges of conspiring to beat Fowler, a caddy, suspect, stealing cigarettes from a railway box car in West Palm Beach, were the following officers of the law:

John T. Britt, Riviera Beach police chief; William M. Barnes, West Palm Beach law officer; Euell M. Culbreth and Walter I. Minton, Palm Beach County deputies; and Worden A. Bader, special agent for the railroad. They were defended by Bart Riley, attorney.

Fowler testified that when he refused to confess the burglary, he was taken from jail to a rifle range by Barnes, Minton, Culbreth and Bader and made to lie face down. Minton stood on his hands and Culbreth stood on his feet, while Barnes beat him with a strap that was three or four feet long and one-fourth of an inch thick for longer than an hour, he said.

## Hospitalized Six Days

"I thought they were going to kill me," he stated, so he confessed the theft, after which, he added, Minton kicked him in the stomach. Two days later, his condition became so bad from the wounds he had received that he was taken to Pine Ridge Hospital, where he remained for almost a week. *Sab. 1-22-49*

During the officers' trial, testi-

mony was introduced from Dr. Charles Harris of the hospital staff to the effect that Fowler had been "brutally handled" and was in "a dangerous condition" when admitted for treatment.

## Fla. Officers Accused in Beating Case

TAMPA, Fla. (P)—Four law enforcement officers in Polk County were arrested yesterday on Federal indictments charging that they beat up two Negro prisoners in violation of the Negroes' civil rights.

U. S. Dist. Atty. Herbert S. Phillips identified the men as Police Chief William C. Brock, Sr., of Mulberry; Police Chief William H. DeVault, of Bartow; Roscoe W. Thornhill, a Bartow policeman, and Paul Jennings, of Lakeland, Polk County deputy sheriff.

They posted a \$1,000 bond apiece and were released. No date has been set for trial.

Phillips said one man was beaten so badly with a rubber hose and fists that he had serious internal injuries, including kidney hemorrhages, and was unable to walk for weeks.



## Negro Prisoner Reported Killed In Georgia Jail

Manchester, Ga., Feb. 28 (U.P.).—A Negro war veteran, allegedly shot three times in the back behind a locked jail door by city officers, died yesterday in a hospital at nearby LaGrange, Ga., it was reported today.

The officers, Policeman C. H. Rogers and a fireman Fulton Avery, said the prisoner, Sam Terry, 37, was shot when he attacked them with a pocket knife as they tried to lock him up.

Terry's widow, Minnie Kate Terry, also arrested, denied Terry resisted arrest, and declared he only pleaded with the officers when they shoved her into a police car. Terry was ill with mumps, she said. 3-1-49

## M. L. ST. JOHN

# Georgia's Prisoners Are Trustworthy

*Atlanta Constitution* — *Atlanta Georgian*  
Georgia, which once was notorious for its cruel chain gangs, today is working half of its county works prisoners on their honor instead of with guns, stripes, leg irons and whips. Nearly half of the 4,600 prisoners in county work camps are trusties. That's twice as large a percentage of trusties as any other Southern State, according to J. B. Hatchett, Assistant State Director of Corrections.

Just back from Little Rock, Ark., where he attended the Southern Prison and Parole Conference meetings, Hatchett says that Georgia has the finest prison system in the South and one of the best in the nation.

A veteran in penal affairs, Hatchett observes that the large percentage of trusties in Georgia is necessary because of the mechanization of road maintenance. Years ago, prisoners worked the roads with picks and shovels. They were concentrated in small groups. They were clad in stripes and wore chains. Guards armed with shotguns stood near by. Today, prisoners are operating tractors and other road machinery. They cannot be concentrated in small groups. They are no longer wearing stripes and leg irons. Guards carry pistols rather than shotguns to watch over those who are not trusties. Nearly half of the prisoners are trusties.

This improved humane treatment of prisoners is making Georgia prisoners more trustworthy than in the days when they were caged as animals, Hatchett reports. Because of the high percentage of such prisoners able to walk in and out of the prison gates, Georgia has a larger percentage of escapes than some other States. However, it is compensated by the fact that its rehabilitation of all prisoners is better. Under the trusty system, a prisoner is able to readjust himself to useful life when he is released.

This high percentage of trusties doesn't extend into the Georgia State Prison at Tattnell. Of the 1,350 inmates there, only about 15 percent are trusties. The reason: Most hardened criminals are sent to Tattnell for confinement behind the walls, instead of to county public work camps.

Hatchett found that Georgia is the only Southern State which uses neither stripes, shackles nor whips. Some other States have eliminated one or two of these methods, but not all three. Georgia doesn't use prisoners as guards over other prisoners, as three other Southern States do.

Georgia's experiment in a juvenile honor camp—which doesn't have any armed guards at all—is attracting national attention, Hatchett learned. At Rome, about 250 white and Negro boys and Negro women occupy honor camps and do work for the Battey Tuberculosis Hospital. Juveniles in Tattnell work to earn the privilege of going to Rome. Few escape from Rome or have to be sent back to Tattnell.

What Georgia needs, Hatchett says, is another institution for juveniles who are not trustworthy enough to go to Rome, but who should be segregated from older criminals at Tattnell. Jan-5-1-49

After six years of penal reform and with the results showing the reformation of such characters as Leland Harvey, D. C. Black and Forrest

Turner, Georgia's reputation for its chain gang of long ago should be erased. Georgia today stands in the forefront in the nation in its treatment of prisoners. It still has far to go in providing vocational training, recreation and segregation for the prisoners. But it has come a long way from the days when prisoners—housed in portable cages, wearing chains and stripes and beaten with whips—broke their own legs or cut their heel straps to cripple themselves so as to keep from being worked hard by vicious guards.



# PRISONER'S DEATH SAID DUE TO HEAT

*James Picayune*  
Wiggins Denies 'Legalized  
Murder' Charge

*13f*  
(The Associated Press)  
Parchman, Miss., March 11—  
The death of a Negro prisoner  
here last July—called "legalized  
murder" by a state senator—was  
due to heat exhaustion, not whop-  
pings, Prison Supt. Marvin Wig-  
gins said Friday afternoon.

The "legalized murder" asser-  
tion was made by State Sen. Earl  
Evans of Canton. He based it on  
the examination of the body of  
Leroy Pierce, 24, and a report on  
Pierce's death sent him by State  
Sen. Fred Jones, chairman of the  
Senate penitentiary committee.

"The coroner's report and the  
testimony of two physicians at  
the inquest lists the death as  
being caused by heat exhaus-  
tion," Wiggins said. "Anything  
beyond that official report would  
be surmise or imagination—per-  
haps imagination would be a bet-  
ter word for it."

Wiggins said he was not at  
Parchman when the death oc-  
cured, and received a report on it  
on his return.

Several of the charges in Sen.  
Jones' report were news to him,  
he said. He added he intends to  
get in touch with Jones for more  
information and then would de-  
cide whether to investigate furth-  
er. He did not say which of the  
charges were new.

Pierce, who entered the peni-  
tentiary five days before his death.  
July 29, was serving a four-year  
term for manslaughter. He died  
while working in the prison cot-  
ton field.

Jones' report said he had been  
beaten on the first and third days  
after reporting to the field, and  
that shortly after the second  
whipping he became heat-stricken  
and died. The report said that  
"only poor judgment" can be  
blamed for the death, however,  
since Mississippi law counte-  
nances such beatings.

Evans said he had the body ex-  
amined by a physician, an under-  
taker, and the sheriff of Madi-  
son county. All agreed, he re-  
ported, that the body bore marks  
of severe handling and substan-  
tiated Jones' findings.

"It looks like legalized murder,"  
Evans declared. "The only place  
to correct it is in the Legislature.  
I intend to ask for a ban on these  
legal whippings and substitution  
of solitary confinement."

Evans said Pierce, who had

worked in cotton fields all of his  
life, was a six-foot, 190-pound  
man "in perfect physical condi-  
tion." *Set 3-12-49*

Jones criticized many of the  
prison camp personnel in general  
terms, charging that many of the  
sergeants were "prejudiced, with  
cruel and vengeful hearts." But  
the only thing the prisoners can  
do under the present law, he add-  
ed, "is to submit to whatever  
punishment or burden the ser-  
geant sees fit to administer."



## 6 Memphis Officers Indicted for Beating Prisoner in '47

MEMPHIS—A Federal grand jury indicted six police officers here last Friday on charges of mistreating John Wesley Scott, now serving not more than seven years' imprisonment for housebreaking and larceny. *Lat-4-16-49 (13f)*

Scott, who was found guilty by a Tipton County Circuit Court jury, March 9, 1948, charged that he was mistreated by the officers on Dec. 5, 1947, after being re-arrested following his escape from the county jail at Covington.

## Officers Tried For Rights Denial

MEMPHIS—(AP)—Six law officers went on trial in Federal Court yesterday on charges that they deprived a Negro prisoner of his constitutional rights.

The Negro, John Wesley Scott, testified that two of the men—Sheriff Charles P. Forbes, of Tipton County, and City Marshal Robert Gift, of Covington, Tenn., beat him so badly his left eye had to be removed.

Scott now is serving a three-to-seven-year sentence on a conviction of housebreaking and larceny.

He testified that he escaped the Tipton County jail, hitting a trust with a broom handle while awaiting trial. The alleged beating, he said, followed his recapture in December, 1947.

## Half-Blinded Prisoner Puts Finger on Tenn. Sheriff

'He Put My Eye Out,' John Wesley Scott

Tells All-White Jury Which Fails to Agree

MEMPHIS—(AP)—Stammering from weariness and excitement, John Wesley Scott, 34, half-blinded prisoner, told a Federal Court jury of 12 white men, here, last week, that the sheriff and five other officers threatened to "kill me" if he told the truth about how they beat him. *Lat-6-25-49*

After deliberating 8½ hours, the jury failed to agree on conviction of the six men, who were charged with denying Scott his Constitutional rights under the 14th Amendment. *Lat-6-25-49*

While awaiting trial in Covington County jail on Dec. 5, 1947, Scott was beaten into insensibility and lost one of his eyes as a result of the brutal treatment. He pointed out Robert Gift, city marshal of Covington, as the man who knocked his eye out, testifying:

"It was Mr. Bob Gift who put my eye out . . . It was Mr. Bob Gift . . . Mr. Bob Gift did it . . ."

The other officers who faced trial were Sheriff Charles P. Forbes, of Tipton County; Jim T. Scott, former city marshal, now deputy warden at state penitentiary in Nashville; Vernon W. Pickins, former assistant city marshal; Jesse Sanders, chief deputy sheriff; and Aubrey Deverall, assistant city marshal. All are white.

Scott testified that first Gift beat him over the head with a blackjack and injured his left eye so badly that it had to be removed later and then, after he had crawled to his bed in the jail and lay there bleeding, Sheriff Forbes beat him for about 20 minutes.

Scott told the jury that the officers left him with his eye protruding out of its socket, and advised him, "Go to the hospital, don't tell any damn lies; tell him you got into a fight in the jail with

another n— and he struck you in the eye."

Dr. John K. Walsh, assistant resident in Ophthalmology at John Gaston Hospital where Scott was operated on after the beating, testified that the eye was "torn in several directions like a star with the iris protruding through the wound." He said the injury was evidently caused by a blunt instrument used with great force.

All of the accused men denied the charges. One of them, Assistant City Marshal Deverall, was present when Sheriff Forbes beat him, Scott testified. *Lat-6-26-49*

Judge Marion S. Boyd presided at the trial.